AFP American Free Press
Vol VIII #9-10 March 3-10, 2008 americanfreepress.net

Manchurian McCandidate or Harmless Superstitions?

By Michael Collins Piper

People who worry about John McCain being some sort of "Manchurian Candidate" who was "brainwashed" by the communists during his "missing years" as a POW in Hanoi got fuel for their conspiracy theories eight years ago during McCain's first presidential campaign when *The Washington Post* published a strange article about the Arizona senator.

In a presumably humorous article entitled "A Candidate's Lucky Charms: John McCain is Hoping Superstition Will See Him Through," the *Post* reported on Feb. 19, 2000 that McCain has developed a strange dependence upon symbolic items.

The *Post* said McCain "keeps on his person a lucky compass, a lucky feather, a lucky penny and, at times, a lucky rock . . .When McCain once misplaced his feather, there was momentary panic in the campaign, until his wife found it in one of his suits. When the compass went missing once, McCain assigned his political director to hunt it down."

"Manchurian Candidate" theorists among McCain's critics point to the famous book by Richard Condon (and the Hollywood film based on the book) in which a former Korean War POW is brainwashed by the Chinese communists and is manipulated by the use of a queen of diamonds playing card by his secret controllers.

They point out that the "brainwashing" process is very real and has been thoroughly documented over the years and that the U.S., CIA and Israel's Mossad have experimented on mind-control operations, as did the Soviet KGB and other intelligence agencies. Symbolism and images have been part of hypnotism and mind control experiments, so as a consequence, the conspiracy theorists have had a field day discussing McCain's reliance on symbolism.

In fact, symbolism runs rampant in the McCain campaign.

• A campaign advisor, Lanny Wiles, has a way of wiggling his right pinkie finger to cast spells. Wiles calls his trick the "Spring Hill Lizard."

• McCain's campaign chairman has a "lucky tie."

• The campaign also has "lucky food." According to the *Post*, McCain "insists that he and his staff eat barbeque . . . before each debate."

• McCain also has "lucky shoes" and a "lucky pen."

• The senator's wife has a "lucky purple suit."Mean-spirited critics who note Mrs. McCain's family ties to organized crime note that purple, traditionally, is a "royal" color and say this befits a "Mafia princess," although her family's connections are to the Lansky-Bronfman syndicate, rather than the so-called Sicilian "Mafia."

The *Post* said "the candidate himself is the leading shaman." (A shaman is a "witch doctor" said to have magical powers and contact with the spirit world.) Jokesters comment that the only talisman McCain doesn't seem to have any affection for is the classic "Manchurian Candidate" queen of diamonds playing card.

The *Post* explains away McCain's superstitions saying that they have "origins in the military" and that his grandfather, a Navy man, had a "lucky crushed cap" that the whole crew on his ship believed had special powers.

The *Post* said "McCain and his aides, so absorbed in their supernatural arts, haven't stopped to consider that their practices might seem a bit bizarre to the uninitiated observer."

On one occasion, the *Post* said, McCain jabbered about "those radio waves coming from God knows where in the Vietnamese foothills." Then the *Post* described how McCain treats the rumors for the benefit of the press: "Suddenly he's sticking out his tongue, shaking head back and forth. 'Stop those voices,' he says. 'Stop those voices.'Then he looks at the reporters and cracks up—laughing."

It may be a joke to McCain, but it's no joke to former POWs and veterans or to the families of POWs and MIAs many of whom —contrary to the perceptions of most Americans—actually question whether John McCain really deserves to be called a "hero."

Michael Collins Piper can be heard every week day night live on the Internet at republicbroadcasting.org. He is the author of ***Final Judgment***, the controversial "underground bestseller" documenting the collaboration of Israeli intelligence in the assassination of John F. Kennedy. He is also the author of ***The High Priests of War***, ***The New Jerusalem: Zionist Power in America*** , ***The Judas Goats: The Enemy Within***, ***Dirty Secrets: Crime, Conspiracy & Cover-Up in the 20th Century,*** and ***The GOLEM: Israel's Hell Bomb.*** These works can be found at America First Books and First Amendment Books: 1-888-699-NEWS. He has lectured on suppressed topics in places as diverse as Malaysia, Japan, Canada, Russia and Abu Dhabi.

(Issue #9-10, March 3 & 10, 2008, AMERICAN FREE PRESS)